Exhibit A

Docket No: 110,00810101

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Olav R. Lyngberg, Michael C. Flickinger, L. Edward Seriven II, and Ren Anderson, declare that: (1) our respective citizenships and residence/mailing addresses are indicated below; (2) we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically reterred to herein, (3) we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter in

COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Filing Date: 29 September 2000

Serial No.: 09/647,475

described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) we hereby acknowledge our duty to disclose to the United States Parent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to the patentability as defined in Trik: 37, Code of Federal Regulations, \$1.56.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §385(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other man the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

2. X no such applications have been filed.

b. ___ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(5), IF ANY, CLAUMING PRIORITY UNDER 95 USC \$119(6)-(d), \$365(e), and/or \$365(b)				
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	

	ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)				
	COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	
-		-			
	•				

Title 37. Code of Federal Regulations, \$1.58 is reproduced on the attacked page.

Declaration and Power of Attorney

Serial No.: 09/647,473

Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Piling Date: 17 September 1999

Tale: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Page 2 of 4

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(a) listed below.

e. __ no mak applications have been filed.

b. X such applications have been filed as follows:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, UNDER 35 USC \$119(e)		
Application number	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	
60/100,914	17 September 1998	

We kently claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications or §365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America, listed below.

L ____ no much applications have been filed,

b. K such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (petented, pending, abandonosi)
PCT/US99/Z1581	17 September 1999	Completed
	*	_

Less far as the subject watter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

The universigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and helicituse believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, ander Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false sustements may propartize the validity of the application or any public issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint Ann M. Meeting (Reg. No. 33,977), Kavia W. Raasch (Reg. No. 35,651), Mark J. Gebhardt (Reg. No. 35,518), Victoria A. Sandberg (Reg. No. 41,287), David L. Provence (Reg. No. 43,022), Matthew W. Adams (Reg. No. 43,459), Lorea Albin (Reg. No. 37,763), Brian J. Walsh (Reg. No. 45,545), and Kathleen L. Franklin (Reg. No. 47,574) our amornous with full powers (including the powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to proceed this application and any division, continuation, impart, recommendation or reliable thereof, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Page 3 of 4

Declaration and Power of Attorney

Scrial No.: 09/647,475

Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999

(If different than Residence)

THE COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Pleasa direct all correspondence in this case to:

Attention: Ann M. Mueting Mueting, Reasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

P.O. Box 581415

Minnespolis, MN 55458-1415 Telephone No. (612) 305-1217 Castomer Number 26813

Whenefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and we hereby subscribe our names to the foregoing specification, claims, and Deckration, on the date indicated below.

DL	in K byly . 7/01	101
Name:	Olav K. Lyngherg	Dan
Critizemship:	United States of America	-
Residence:	6 Pictiment Drive, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550 USA.	
Minling Addre		
(It different the	m Hozidence)	
Name:	Michael C. Flickinger	
Citizenshin:	United States of America	Dat
Residence:	2226 Scuddor Avenue, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota 55108 USA	
Meiling Addre	m;	
(If different the	an Residence)	· 1
Name:	L. Edward Scriven II	Dui
Citiza nultip:	United States of America	
Residence	2044 Coder Lake Parkway, Minneapolis, Minecarta 55416 USA	
Mailing Addre		
(If different the	Residence)	
	•	•
Name,	Ron Anderson	Dat
Citizenehipe	United States of America	. •
Residences	13645 Charrett Avenue, Apple Valley, Minnesona 55124 USA	
Mailing Addre	SA:	

Declaration and Power of Attorney Serial No.: 09/647,475 Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999

(2)

Page 4 of 4

TILE: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- (a) A patent by its very astrate is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the reachings of all innormation material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §\$1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted as an application in connection with which frank on the Office was practiced or anomalous cancellally examines:
 - (1) Prior art chied in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any penting claim patentally defines, to make some that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prime facie case of uppatentability of a claim; or
 - It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability rolled on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting as argument of patentability.

A prime facto case of emparementality is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unput entable under the preponderance of cvidence, burden of proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest teatemable construction cognistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patents billity.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor assed in the application;
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclusing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (c) In any continuation-in-part application, the thity under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office oil information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

Docket No: 110,00810101

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Olav K. Lyngberg, Michael C. Flickinger, L. Edward Seriven II, and Ron Anderson, declare that: (1) our respective cinimmaking and residence/mailing addresses are indicated below; (2) we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein, (3) we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter in

COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Filing Data: 29 September 2000

Serial No.: 09/647,475

described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) we hereby acknowledge our duty to disclose to the United States Parent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to the patentability as defined in Trate 37, Code of Pederal Rogulations, §1.56.*

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for parout or inventor's certificate listed below, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed;

a. X no such applications have been filed.

b. __ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119(a)-(d), §365(b), and/or (365(b)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, mouth, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
• •			

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)				
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	

Title 37. Code of Pederal Regulations, \$9.56 is reproduced on the attached page.

Declaration and Power of Automey

Serial No.: 09/647,475

Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999 Page 2 of 4

THE COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code \$119(c) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

s. ___ no such applications have been filed.

b. X such applications have been filed as follows:

Provisional application(s), if any, under 35 usc \$119(0)		
APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	
60/100,914	17 September 1998	
	3	

We bereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications or §365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America, listed below.

a. ___ no such applications have been filed.

b. X such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, mouth, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandomy)
PCT/US99/21581	17 September 1999	Completed

Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States of PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Tide 35, United States Code, § 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in This 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are tree and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint Ann M. Mucting (Reg. No. 33,977), Kevin W. Reasch (Reg. No. 35,631), Mark J. Gelshardt (Reg. No. 35,518), Victoria A. Sendberg (Reg. No. 41,287), David L. Provence (Reg. No. 43,022), Manhew W. Adams (Reg. No. 43,459), Loren Afbin (Reg. No. 37,763), Brian J. Welsh (Reg. No. 45,543), and Kathleen L. Pranktin (Reg. No. 47,574) our attorneys with full powers (Including the powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to prosecute this application and any division, continuation, continuation-in-part, recommendation or missae thereof, and to transact all business in the Potent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Page 3 of 4

Declaration and Power of Attorney

Scriet No.: 09/647,475

(If different than Residence)

Filling Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999

THE COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Please direct all correspondence in this case to:

Attention: Ann M. Mueting Mueting, Reasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

P.O. Box 581415

Minruspolls, MN 55458-1415 Telephone No. (612) 305-1217 Cnatemer Number 26813

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and we hereby subscribe our names to the foregoing specification, claims, and Declaration, on the date indicated below.

Name:	Olav K. Lyngberg		
Citizenship;	United States of America		Date
Residence:	6 Piedmont Drive, Princeton America, New Jersey 08550 U.		•
Meiling Addre	es.	ia.	
(If different the	n Retidence)		
7			
- 6 //			
1/4	well (Hicks-	8-15-01	
Name:	Michael C. Filckinger		
Citizenship:	United States of America		Date
Residence:	2226 Scudder Avenue, St. Anthony Park, Minneson 55108	Tare s	
Mailing Addre	ne.	USA.	
(If different the			
A			
6	August 10 second	8-17-01	
Namos	L. Edward Scrives II	2. 101	
Citizenshipe	United States of America		Date
Residence		70.4	
Mailing Addre	2044 Cellar Lake Parkway, Minneapolis, Miraccota 55416 \	JSA.	
Of different the	one um Decides es \		
Or amicical lin	m verticate)	.1	
	•		
Name:	Ron Anderson		
Citizenship:	United States of America	•	Dat
Residence:			
Mailing Addre	13645 Garrent Avenue, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124 USA	Y 5	
Mannag voors	355		

Declaration and Power of Attorney Serial No.: 09/647,475 Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999

Page 4 of 4

Title: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS § 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a daty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a daty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is decayed to be salisfied if all information known to be material to patentability is despected in the salisfied in all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by \$\$1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intumional indeconduct. The Office oneourages applicates to carefully examine:
 - Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application betieve any pending claim patentably deflace, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facio case of unpatentability
 of a claim; or
 - (Z) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prime facte case of apparentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated while the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this acction are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - Each attorney of agent who prepares or prospectics the application; and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (4) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (a) In any communition in-part application, the thity under this section includes the dwy to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be graterial to putentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the fiting date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

Docket No: 110.00810101

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Olav K. Lyngberg, Michael C. Plickinger, L. Edward Seriven II, and Ron Anderson, deciare that: (1) our respective critizenships and residence/mailing addresses are indicated below; (2) we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein, (3) we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject maner in

COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Piling Date: 29 September 2000

Serial No.: 09/647,475

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4. X no such applications have been filed.

b. __ such applications have been filed as follows:

PORIL	GN APPLICATION(S), IF 35 USC \$119(a)-(d)	ANY, CLAIMING PRIORI , <u>\$365(a)</u> , <u>and/or</u> \$ 365(b)	IY UNDER
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, memb, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
	<u></u>	1	

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)				
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF WILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, manth, year)	
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	

Tale 37. Code of Federal Betylotions, \$1.55 is reproduced on the attached page.

Declaration and Power of Attorney

Serial No.: 09/647,475

Page 2 of 4

Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Piling Date: 17 September 1999

TIME: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

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APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	
60/100,914	17 September 1998	
	- 18 - 19 - 48 - 19 - 19 - 19 - 19 - 19 - 19 - 19 - 1	

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b. X such applications have been filed as follows:

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending abandoned)
PCT/US99/21581	17 September 1999	Completed

Insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the rational or PCT international filing date of this application.

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Declaration and Power of Attorney

Serial No.: 09/647,475

(If different than Residence)

Filing Date: 29 September 2000 Int'l Piling Date: 17 September 1999

THE: COMPOSTIE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Page 3 of 4

Please direct all correspondence in this case to:

Attention: Ann M. Mueting Muoting, Rassch & Gebharth, P.A. P.O. Box 581415

Missespelia, MN 55458-1415 Telephone No. (612) 305-1217

Customer Number 26813

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Prient be granted to us for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and we hereby subscribe our names to the integring specification, claims, and Declaration, on the data indicated below.

Name: Olav K. Lyngherg Date Citizenship; United States of America Residence 6 Findment Drive, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550 USA. Minling Address: (If different than Residence) Namer Michael C. Plickinger Date Citizenship: United States of America Residence 2226 Soudder Avenue, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota 55108 USA Mailing Address: . (If different than Residence) Namo L. Edward Seriven II Dure Citizenship: United States of America Residence 2044 Cedar Lake Parkway, Minneapolia, Minneaota 55416 USA Mailing Addresse (If different than Residence) Name: Ron Anderson Citizenship: United States of America Residences 19645 Garren Avenue, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124 USA Mailing Address:

Declaration and Power of Accuracy
Serial No.: 09/647,475
Filing Date: 29 September 2000
Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999
Title: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS

Page 4 of 4

§ 1.56 Daty to disclose information material to patentability.

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 - (1) Prior art clied in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
 - (2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patem application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to palentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima factor cane of unpatentability of a claim; or
 - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (f) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facte case of unparentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unparentable under the proponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its breadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a constary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filling or prosecution of a parent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application, and
 - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation of prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignmenor with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any continuation-in-part application, the thuy under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office oil information known to the person to be praterial to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.